



City of Redmond Planning Commission May 18, 2005 Meeting Summary

Planning Commissioners in Attendance:

Kate Dunn, Charlie McCarthy, Korby Parnell, Martin Snodgrass

Planning Commissioners not in Attendance:

Kim Allen, Susan Petitpas, Suzanne Query

Staff and Guests in Attendance:

Lori Peckol, Jeff Churchill, Redmond Planning Department; Joel Pfundt, Redmond Public Works Department

Business Conducted:

Chair Snodgrass called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Commissioners Allen, Query and Petitpas were excused from the meeting.

There were no items from the audience and the Commission approved the meeting summaries for March 30 and May 11.

Chair Snodgrass opened the study session on the Downtown Redmond High Capacity Transit (HCT) Study. Joel Pfundt stated that the City is at an important point in the continued effort to bring high capacity transit to Downtown Redmond, and that the briefing session was timely to seek Commission's input. He noted that as an outcome of the HCT study, changes to the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan may be necessary.

In his presentation, Mr. Pfundt described study area and purpose, recent and upcoming major milestones on transit planning in the region, community and policy guidance to date related to HCT, transit planning concepts, opportunities and constraints in the Downtown and SE Redmond related to HCT, draft alternatives for alignment and station locations, remaining questions, and next steps. The Commissioners asked several questions and provided feedback on the draft alternatives and station locations. Included among the feedback:

- Liked the alignment along SR 520, though also wouldn't want alignment to preclude any transit technology
- Alignment and station locations should be located north and east enough to catch commuters accessing from Avondale Road and developments just east of Redmond. Important to minimize intrusion into the Downtown.
- Like opportunity for intensification/redevelopment of Bear Creek shopping center area. Additional ideas for station locations included the Mervyns/Target area.
- Expressed some concern about use of the BNSF right of way for a transit corridor, and suggested that perhaps the alignment along SR 520 could extend to Avondale Road and then return south to the Downtown without using the BNSF ROW. May also be able to use another type of transit technology to access the Downtown.

- Importance of planning adequately for pedestrian connections among destinations within and near the Downtown.
- Importance of avoiding impact to Downtown open space.

Commissioners also briefly discussed how they might use high capacity transit. Most thought they would primarily use it for regional trips during the evenings and weekends, such as trips to the airport, sporting or cultural events in Seattle. Two Commissioners also thought they would use it during weekdays to travel between Overlake and Downtown, or between Overlake and other Redmond locations or nearby communities.

Chair Snodgrass opened the study session on the proposed Implementation and Community Indicators Program. He asked that following the study session, Commissioners provide any additional comments to staff by May 23, so that they can be reviewed at the next study session, and potentially complete the Commission's recommendation to City Council.

Jeff Churchill provided an overview of the proposed program. He also described its relationship to the Comprehensive Plan; the reasons for seeking community input, and Planning Commission and City Council review and endorsement of the program; what information provided through the program would be used for; and he highlighted the source and reasoning for proposed actions that are not explicitly covered by the adopted policies.

The Commissioners identified initial discussion issues and initial proposals for additions to the list of actions and indicators.

Ms. Peckol reported on the May 17 City Council meeting.

The Commission next discussed potential agenda items for the June 22 Planning Commission-City Council meeting. Ms. Peckol suggested two topics (1. potential items for the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Package, and 2) potential issues to be addressed as part of implementation and refinement of policies for the Overlake Neighborhood), in addition to time for informal discussion between the two groups.

Commissioners suggested the following items for the agenda:

Commissioner Dunn: Discussion of the TMP Workplan Items (Chapter 6 list) to get a better understanding on priorities, scope, and timeframe for each of the items.

Commissioner Parnell: Discussion of technology issues, including City support for or provision of affordable, high speed wireless internet access citywide, cable franchise agreements, and expansion of City internet services, including the types of number of documents and other information available through the City's web site.

The Commissioners agreed to have further discussion at their next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.